

**BEN YSURSA  
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SECRETARY OF STATE**

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To be released immediately.

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Contact: Election Division, Secretary of State (208) 334-2852

**Secretary of State Ysursa announces  
Voting System Certification Hearing**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Today Secretary of State Ben Ysursa announced a certification hearing for Sequoia Voting Systems. The public is encouraged to attend.

**Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>  
8:30AM – 4PM**

**Joe R. Williams Building  
700 West State Street, Boise Idaho  
East Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor.**

Sequoia Voting Systems will offer for certification a Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting system. The electronic voting system utilizes a touch screen to enter votes and records votes in the machine. The device produces a paper trail as required by Idaho statute and offers an audio feature to provide accessibility for the visually impaired. The company will also offer an optical scan voting system in which the voter marks a paper ballot similar to systems currently in use in Idaho.

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 requires an accessible voting device be available in every precinct in the state by the first federal election after January 1, 2006. The purpose of this hearing is to evaluate the accessibility of the voting devices and their usability, which is the initial step in providing a certified accessible voting system for the citizens of Idaho.

"Although federal mandates create challenges, they also provide opportunities for change and improvement", Ysursa said.

The public is invited to try the voting machines from 11AM -12PM, and 1PM – 3PM.

The Secretary of State will be available for questions from the press from 11:30 –12 noon.